

To the M. W. Bro. Col. Wilson, Grand Master of Canada.

## CASE.

In a Lodge of master masons in Canada a brother proposed a candidate, stating that the petition was duly signed, but that he had omitted to bring it with him from his residence. The Worshipful Master consented to receive the application, and the Lodge not making any objection tacitly approved it, until the Secretary observed that it was irregular, and that he could not enter on the minutes the reception of a petition or any other document which was not in possession of the Lodge. The W. M. insisted that the Secretary was bound to obey him, ordered the petition to be duly entered and appointed a Committee of enquiry thereon, and was supported by the Lodge. The Secretary would not admit that he was bound to obey an unlawful command and thus infringe on the landmarks of the Order by the dictum of the W. M. and in defiance of a Resolution passed some short time previously, directing that the Christian and surnames of every candidate should be written in full length before his petition could be received; great irregularities having therefore been passed over repeatedly. The Secretary consequently tendered his resignation at the next regular Lodge, which was accepted and his successor appointed.

Your opinion is respectfully requested as to the regularity of the proceedings on the part of each Officer, for the information and government of the Lodge in future.

## REPLY.

Were the brethren more generally to avail themselves of the large amount of information now placed within the reach of all, by means of the masonic Press, such "cases" as the foregoing, would never have to be submitted for official decision.

It is a principle of masonic law that the Master is supreme in his Lodge, and is amenable for his conduct in the government of it, not to its members but to the Grand Lodge alone, and it is the authority and dignity with which his office is clothed, that preserves and maintains that spirit of discipline which pervades every part of the institution and to which it is mainly indebted for its prosperity and perpetuity. Any appeal, therefore, from the Master of the Lodge, to its members, is unknown in masonry. If a member is aggrieved by the conduct or decision of the Master, he has his redress by an appeal to the Grand Lodge, which will, of course, see that the Master does not rule his Lodge "in an unjust or arbitrary manner." As to the resignation of his office by the Secretary and the acceptance of it, by the Lodge, there can be no doubt that both were wrong, for no Officer can resign his office after he has been installed. Every Officer is elected for twelve months, and at his installation solemnly promises to perform the duties of his office, and hence the Lodge cannot permit him, by a resignation, to violate his obligation of office. Another rule is (I quote the words of the learned Dr. Mackey) that every Officer holds on to his office, until his successor has been installed. It is the installation and not the election which puts an Officer into possession, and the faithful management of the affairs of masonry, requires that between the election and installation of his successor, the predecessor shall

not vacate the office, but continue to discharge its duties. In the absence of the Officer the duties of his office must be temporarily discharged by some other brother, to be appointed from time to time by the presiding Officer.

It is the duty of the Secretary to record all the proceedings of the Lodge "which may be committed to paper," and had the Secretary in this case, borne this in mind, he could have entertained no doubt as to what his duty was on the occasion referred to.

W. M. WILSON, G. M.

Simcoe, 1st September, 1856.

## CASE.

A visiting brother, when in the anti-room, before the board of trial for admission, demanded an inspection of our warrant, previous to his answering any questions. Is it consistent or masonic, that the said charter should be taken from the Lodge Room (the Lodge being open) for the inspection of said visitor?

## ANSWER.

A visiting brother has a right to demand an inspection of the warrant of Constitution of any Lodge he may wish to visit, he has not only a right but it is his duty carefully to inspect it, before he enters the Lodge, in order that he may satisfy himself of the legality and regularity of its character and authority.

The same rule, of course, applies to Lodges working under dispensation as this instrument supplies the place of a warrant of Constitution.

WM. M. WILSON, G. M.

Simcoe, 15th September, 1856.

Extract from minutes of Brant Lodge No. 22, of Free and Accepted Masons, Brantford, C. W.

Regular Monthly Lodge, 9th Sept., 1856.

"Bro. Rawlings laid before the Lodge the first four numbers of the "Canadian Masonic Pioneer," published at Montreal, and earnestly requested the attention of the W. M. and brethren thereto; and the same having been taken into consideration in open Lodge, it was moved by "bro. Malloch, C. W., seconded by bro. Prayn, J. W., and unanimously Resolved,— "That this Lodge hail with great satisfaction the publication in question as an organ of masonry on our own soil. That a copy thereof be forthwith ordered for the use of the Lodge, and carefully preserved among its archives as a valuable record of Canadian masonry. And that a copy of this Resolution be sent the Editors of "the Pioneer, signed by the Secretary."

[A true copy.]

T. CHEESMAN, Secretary.

To the Editors of the MASONIC PIONEER.

DEAR SIRS AND BRETHREN,—I am much gratified to know that numerous Brethren of our Royal Art, have testified to the able qualifications you possess, as Masonic writers, to the success which the "Pioneer" has attained, and to the amount of good which your zeal in the cause, and love for the Fraternity, must ultimately accomplish.

Since the memorable day of the erection of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and the establishment of your medium for the circulation of its injunctions among the Craft, freemasonry in West-

ern Canada seems to have received a fresh germ of life, and to have grown, and its sphere of influence over the moral worth of the nation, adding its vigour and intelligence. Now at the sound of the gavel the Canadian workmen go up to re-build the temple—wind or storm, sunshine or shower no longer prevent the Craftsmen from prosecuting their work. Zeal and fidelity prompt them to stability and perfection, with a knowledge of the art, now make the weary take fresh courage and pursue the tenor of their way to the accomplishment of their task.

I was present at the last Regular Meeting of the Lodge of Strict Obedience, held in this City, (the room in which the Grand Lodge was erected), the temple though large was comfortably filled with workmen from the hills of Scotland and Newfoundland, the valleys of New Brunswick and the United States, and from many temples situated between the Eastern and Western limits of Canada. The East was radiant with light, the West showed not darkness; while the meridian rays of the South cast a brightness over the vast expanse, traversed by the "lesser luminaries."

Here the usefulness of the "Pioneer" was acknowledged by all, the talents of its conductors appreciated, and its worth testified to, by those whose names I enclose as subscribers. This approbation by the Lodge of Strict Obedience I would convey to you, with the assurance "that they trust, that by the assistance of the great Architect of the Universe, the "Pioneer" may become increasingly valuable to the "Masters in Israel," while by it the knowledge of their art may become more, and more extended among the Craft.

Wishing you every good gift,

Yours fraternally,  
HENRY GRIST.

Hamilton, Oct. 30th, 1856.

## GRAND MASONIC BALL.

Members of the Craft, and the Public, are respectfully informed that

A GRAND MASONIC BALL,  
Under the Patronage of the Craft generally in  
Canada, will be held at the

**DONEGANA HOTEL,**  
ON NEW YEAR'S EVE.

Members of the Craft will appear in full Masonic Regalia.

TICKETS admitting a Lady and Gentleman, \$5 each.

Tickets will be issued and further particulars given in a few days.

A. HOFFMUNG,  
Secretary of Ball Committee.

Nov. 29.

## REGALIA!

THE undersigned, Agent for English Manufacture of every description of

**MASONIC REGALIA,**  
Military Gold Trimming, Swords, &c.

Respectfully intimates to wholesale buyers of such Goods that he has now on hand a Complete Assortment which he offers at a small advance on the Sterling Cost.

Descriptive and Price Lists forwarded to any address on receipt of a Post paid application.

W. VAN ABBOTT,  
St. Paul Street Sale Rooms, Montreal.  
Montreal, December, 1856.